

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 238363 TOSEC 100080
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:HETTHAYER:CB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYTEEN

S/S - TMARTIN

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P 032355Z OCT 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 238363 TOSEC 100080

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CH, US

SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL INTERVIEW WITH PRC VICE FM
YU CHAN

1. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
OCTOBER 3, PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YU CHAN TOLD
VISITING WSJ EDITORS THAT THE SALE OF US REPLACEMENT ARMS
TO TAIWAN FOLLOWING US-PRC NORMALIZATION WOULD BE INTOLER-
ABLE. YU IS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT ANY AMERICAN
STATEMENT THAT THE US HAS VITAL INTERESTS IN THE PEACE AND
STABILITY OF THE TAIWAN REGION WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO
CHINA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EVEN RAISING THE ISSUE OF
ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. YU NOTED THAT THE PRC HAD MADE A
"MAJOR COMPROMISE" IN PERMITTING JAPAN TO RETAIN TRADE
LINKS WITH TAIWAN FOLLOWING TOKYO'S ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING IN 1972 AND THAT THE SAME
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POLICY COULD BE EXTENDED TO THE US. HE EMPHASIZED,
HOWEVER, THAT THIS US TRADE COULD NOT INCLUDE ARMS AND SAID
THAT SUCH ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN WOULD COMPEL CHINA TO TAKE
TAIWAN BY FORCE. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT YU WAS PARTICU-
LARLY FORCEFUL IN LAYING OUT THE PRC'S UNYIELDING POSITION
ON TAIWAN AND CHINA'S ANNOYANCE AT ALLEGED US SOFTNESS

TOWARD THE USSR.

COMMENT: WHATEVER THE EXACT REASON YU MADE THIS STATEMENT TO THE JOURNAL AT THIS TIME, IT IS CLEARLY UNHELPFUL. IT PUTS ON THE RECORD A SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIAL'S REMARKS THAT WOULD APPEAR TO CONTRADICT BASIC US REQUIREMENTS FOR NORMALIZATION.

3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YU, WHO HAS SERVED AS A PUBLIC "HATCHET MAN" SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRC IN THE PAST, WAS PROVOKED BY QUESTIONS AND BY EARLIER PRESS STORIES, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE KENNEDY SPEECH, ABOUT US REQUIREMENTS. BUT THE FACT IS THAT THE STATEMENTS ARE NOW ON THE RECORD AND WILL BE PLAGUING US IN THE FUTURE.

4. A PARAPHRASE REPORT OF A VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS DOES NOT MAKE A FORMAL POSITION, BUT IT DOES MOVE THE PRC PUBLIC POSTURE UP ONE UNHELPFUL NOTCH FROM THE COMMENTS BY VICE PREMIER TENG TO THE AP DELEGATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. CHRISTOPHER

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 238363

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT STATE 238363 TOSEC 100080 SENT ACTION USDEL SECRETARY
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QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 238363 TOSEC 100080

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DELEGATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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